

**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for the continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

FEB 19 2002

Application Number

#11/RCE/2811
3-1-02 09/528,296

Filing Date

March 17, 2000

First Named Inventor

Kazuhiko TAKADA

Group Art Unit

2811

Name of Examiner

Ori NADAV

Attorney Docket No.

000294

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar 20, 2000) 1233 Off. Gazette Pat Office (April 11, 2000) which established RCE practice.

1. **Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

a. ☐ Previously submitted

i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)

ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment (Preliminary)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. ☐ Other _____

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2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of Action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (period shall not exceed three months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other _____

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e)

ii. ☐ Extension of Time Fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 740.00 is enclosed.

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PAGE 2

Atty Docket No.

000294

SIGNATURE BY APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name Joseph L. Felber

Registration No. 48,109

Signature



Date January 19, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

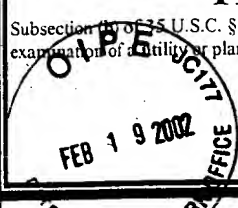
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, BOX RCE, Washington, D.C. 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

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Filing Date	March 17, 2000
First Named Inventor	Kazuhiko TAKADA
Group Art Unit	2811
Name of Examiner	Ori NADAV
Attorney Docket No.	000294

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#121B
3-1-02
Hayes

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: Kazuhiko TAKADA

Serial No.: 09/528,296

Group Art Unit: 2811

Filed: March 17, 2000

Examiner: Ori NAVAV

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING A GUARD RING

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: February 19, 2002

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims 1 and 6 as follows:

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- Sub
C1
B7
1. (Twice Amended) A semiconductor device, comprising:
a substrate; and
a multilayer interconnection structure formed on said substrate,
said multilayer interconnection structure including: at least first and second interlayer insulation films provided on said substrate; and a guard ring pattern embedded in each of said first and second interlayer insulation films, said guard ring pattern extending along a periphery of said substrate, said multilayer interconnection structure being planarized by using a CMP process,